

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 MMO-01 EB-07 AGR-05

SP-02 /040 W

----- 041944

R 071434Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1217

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1008

STATE FOR CU/EE, CU/IVP, EUR/EE; USIA FOR ICS, IEU;
OTHERS FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT, "REFLECTIONS" EXHIBIT AND
INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: SOFIA 918

1. IN CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS WITH P&C OFFICER FRI 7
MAY, NIKOLA NIKOLOV, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA CULTURAL COOPERATION
DEPT, SAID HIS SUPERIOR, CHAVDAR DAMYANOV, HAD ASKED NIKOLOV
TO ASK WHETHER EMBASSY WAS READY TO RESPOND TO GOB'S EARLIER
SUGGESTIONS FOR FY 1977 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT CATEGORIES.

2. P&C OFFICER REPLIED EMBASSY WAS NOT READY AND NOTED
WE ARE AWAITING DECISION ON "REFLECTIONS" EXHIBIT AND FURTHER
MOVEMENT ON CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT. "REFLECTIONS"
DECISION HAD BEEN PROMISED EARLY THIS WEEK, HE NOTED.

3. NIKOLOV SAID DECISION WOULD BE EXPEDITED
AND ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY WAS "CONNECTING" THESE
SUBJECTS. P&C OFFICER SAID QUESTION HAD ARISEN OF
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"ATMOSPHERE" OF USG-GOB CULTURAL COOPERATION, AND

SCOPE OF IV PROGRAM MUST AWAIT RESOLUTION OF THAT QUESTION, WHICH IS CONNECTED WITH "REFLECTIONS" AND AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, P&C OFFICER POINTED OUT, SUBJECT IF IVP HAS NO URGENCY, SINCE UNDER DISCUSSION IS IV PROGRAM FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAGBV ONE IV GRANTEE FROM THIS FY'S PROGRAM WAS LEAVING TODAY (GANCHEVA) AND TWO DO NOT LEAVE UNTIL EARLY JUNE (SOKOLOVSKI, MLADENOV).

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL DECISION BY GOB TO ALLOW AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITY IN BULGARIA IS ESSENTIAL PRE-CONDITION FOR CONTINUED "COOPERATION." IN ANY CASE, HAVING STAKED OUT THE GROUND, ANY RETREAT NOW WOULD BE UNWISE. WE THUS SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD BACK UNTIL BULGARIA ADOPT A MORE FORTHCOMING POSTURE. NIKOLOV'S QUESTION TODAY MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO FEEL US OUT AND THUS MAY INDICATE THAT THE MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH. FELDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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